

52607 to 52617—Continued.

corrugated on the surface, and a kernel of mild, pleasant flavor. Recently the species has been utilized in Ambato as a stock plant on which to graft *J. regia*.

"In Ibarra the *tocte* is very abundant, and the nuts are commonly sold in the market. They are used to prepare a famous sweetmeat, the *nogada* of Ibarra, made from brown or white sugar, milk, and walnut meats. At Otavalo the tree is quite abundant, as also in the southern part of Ecuador at Loja and Cuenca. The two species which go under this name are very similar in character."

For an illustration of the *tocte*, see Plate II.

52612. *MEDICAGO SATIVA* L. Fabaceæ.

Alfalfa.

"(No. 563a. Ambato, Ecuador. January 21, 1921.) Seed purchased in the market of Ambato, near which town it was produced, at an altitude of 8,600 feet. This is the common alfalfa of the Ecuadorian highlands, forwarded for trial in comparison with North American varieties. It is cultivated in a region of little rainfall and on a very light, loose sandy soil."

52613. *TACSONIA TRIPARTITA* JUSS. Passifloraceæ.

"(No. 561a. Ambato, Ecuador. January 24, 1921.) *Tacso*. This species is quite distinct in habit from *Tacsonia mollissima*; the plant is a slender climber, reaching to 15 or 20 feet. The leaves are deeply 3-lobed, with the lobes narrow; the flowers are light pink, 3 inches broad. The fruits are oblong, tapering slightly toward the stem, about 3 inches in length, and orange-yellow. In flavor they are quite similar to those of *T. mollissima*. For trial in California and Florida."

52614. *PRUNUS SEROTINA* Ehrh. Amygdalaceæ.

Capulin.

"(No. 564a. Ambato, Ecuador. January 24, 1921.) *Capuli*. Seeds of the large-fruited variety of which scions have been sent."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 52579.

52615. *PRUNUS CERASIFERA MYROBALANA* (L.) C. Schneid. Amygdalaceæ. Plum.

"(No. 565a. Ambato, Ecuador. January 22, 1921.) *Mirabel*. Seeds obtained from fruits purchased in the market of Ambato. For trial as a stock plant."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 52580.

52616. *ZEA MAYS* L. Poaceæ.

Corn.

"(No. 560a. Ambato, Ecuador. January 12, 1921.) *Maiz negro* (black corn). A peculiar variety of corn, obtained in the market of Ambato. The ears are 3 to 6 inches long, tapering toward the apex, and the kernels large, starchy, and purplish black."

52617. *ASTRAGALUS* sp. Fabaceæ.

"(No. 568a. Ambato, Ecuador. January 22, 1921.) An attractive shrub common on dry hillsides about Ambato (8,500 feet), whence this seed. It sometimes reaches to 6 feet in height; its compound pinnate leaves are 3 to 5 inches long, and its lilac-purple pea-shaped flowers, borne in small clusters, are about half an inch broad. The plant will probably succeed in California and Florida, where it should be tested as an ornamental."